

# Saving the planet, one energy-efficient house at a time

## Eco Plus Home in Bathurst taking shape, family moves in next month

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As the final piece of what will be his home for the next year was set into place by a massive crane last week, Bryan Kenny couldn't hide his enthusiasm.

"It is pretty exciting," smiled Mr. Kenny in front of the home in Squire Green Subdivision. "To see the house being put together in one day is pretty amazing."

Workers arrived on site early last Thursday morning, and by early afternoon all four pieces of the two story modular home were set atop the foundation.

"I showed up here this morning and there was a foundation," added Mr. Kenny. "Now it is noon and we've got three quarters of a house put together."

The next couple of weeks will be busy ones at the groundbreaking project that will see Mr. Kenny and his family occupy the state of the art home. The 'Eco Plus Home' will make use of an electric heat pump, a solar thermal system and a photovoltaic system to make it not only energy efficient but virtually free of CO2 emissions.

"We're saving the planet one house at a time," said Mr. Kenny.

A conventional home produces an average of eight tons of CO2 per year. Axel Lerche, of Tight Line Productions, who are spearheading the project, said the home will be the first of its kind in North America.

"The Eco Plus Home is the first affordable net zero home for the North American Market and we are very proud about the fact that this house is realized here in Bathurst," he said. "I am very glad that we have also acquired a lot of local partners for Bathurst who believe in the green idea and the fact that we all need alternatives to be more independent from fossil fuels. We all want to save the planet."

Those local companies, including Novolux, who will be doing the electrical work, will work alongside Bosch Thermotechnik from Germany, who will provide the technical expertise for the project.

"The next big step is the visit of our technical partners, the Bosch Group," said Mr. Lerche. "They are coming with five engineers out of Germany. They are responsible for installing all of the different energy efficient components into

the Eco Plus Home."

"The Bosch Group is actually the world's largest privately owned company," added Scott Tidd, who is the project manager for Eco Plus Home. "It is such a big deal to have this project going on, because they (the Bosch Group) chose this project to

launch the environmental side of their business. They could have chosen anywhere in the world and Bathurst, N.B. is where it is, so it is putting Bathurst on the global map."

Mr. Kenny said he and his family, which includes wife Renee and their children Tyler (14), Grayson (13), Shane (9) and Olivia (6); hope to move into the house next month, following an open house where the public can visit the project.

"We'll let a lot of people come through and see the house as it is meant to be, and then my family and I will move in and we'll mess it up after that,"

he laughed.

"We have another couple of weeks of pretty intense work," concluded Mr. Tidd. "Luckily enough, we have all of the right people in the right places to help us out with that. The ultimate goal would be to have the family in there by the end of October."

Energy balances will be monitored over the course of the year, and once the experiment is over, the aim is to offer the house to markets in Canada and the United States at a price similar to a conventional house.



Peter Assaff/Northern Light Photo

Bryan Kenny (left); Axel Lerche, of Tight Line Productions; and Scott Tidd, Eco Plus Home project manager; gave the thumbs up sign as the final piece of the Eco Plus Home that Mr. Kenny and his family will be living in for the next year was put into place last Thursday in Squire Green Subdivision.